

FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

SOUTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1886-87.

INTRODUCTION.

In point of revenue the year 1886-87 may be regarded as a favourable one. The receipts have considerably exceeded those of all past years, excepting 1885-86, whose income was higher owing to the large number of sleepers supplied to the Southern Marátha Railway Company. The demand for wood has increased, and it may be expected to further increase with the opening of the Western Deccan line of the Southern Marátha Railway, when there will be direct railway communication with Poona.

2. The increase in the sale of fuel supplied to the railway, now amounting to 2,000 tons a month, with every chance of its increasing to 3,000 during the present year, and the opening of the railway through the forests of Southern Belgaum, which will considerably increase the demand for forest produce, are the most noteworthy events of the past year.

3. The survey of the forests of the Khánápur Táluka was continued mainly under Messrs. Longe and Pollen, and all the forests of Belgaum, of which it is necessary to have accurate maps, have now been surveyed. This will set the survey-party free to commence work on the heavy timber-forests of Haliyál in Kánara, which are a continuation of the forests of Southern Khánápur.

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND RESERVES.

4. The area under forest conservancy on the 1st April 1886, and gazetted under the Forest Act of 1878, was 5,230 square miles 481 acres, consisting of 1,816 square miles 169 acres of Reserved, and 3,414 square miles 312 acres of Protected, Forest.

5. The additions and disforestments made during the year 1886-87 are as follows :—

				RESERVED FORESTS.		PROTECTED FORESTS.	
				Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.
Added...	...	...	...	6	104 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	492 $\frac{1}{4}$
Excluded	...	...	...	...	$\frac{4}{4}$	6	624 $\frac{1}{4}$

leaving on the 31st March, 1887, 5,234 square miles and 452 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, made up of :—

			Square Miles.	Acres.
Reserved Forests	...	...	...1,822	272 $\frac{1}{4}$
Protected Forests	...	...	...3,412	180
Total			...5,234	452 $\frac{1}{4}$

6. The following shows the details for the Collectorates of the Circle :—

Name of Collectorate.	Area on 1st April 1886.				Added during the year.				Excluded or transferred to other heads.				Area on the 31st March 1887.				Total Forest Area.	
	Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Area.	
	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.
Kánara	683	446	2,864	631	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	683	446	2,864	631	3,548	437
Belgaum	492	82	197	207	..	..	..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..	..	492	82	197	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	689	305 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dhárwār	171	425	260	261	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171	425	260	261	432	46
Kolába	293	368	91	129	6	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	476 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	3	6	624 $\frac{1}{2}$	299	471 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	620 $\frac{1}{2}$	398	452 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bijápúr	155	116	..	364	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155	116	..	364	155	479
Ratnágiri	20	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	13	..	..	20	13
Total	1,816	169	3,414	312	6	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	492 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	3	6	624 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,823	272 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,412	180	5,234	452 $\frac{1}{2}$

KÁNARA.

7. Schedules of lands, comprising 20 villages of the Honávar Sub-division and 43 villages of Sirsi, aggregating 17,850 and 42,409 acres, respectively, were published under Section 4 of the Forest Act. In the Ankolá Sub-division 2 acres and 6 gunthás were also notified under Section 4 of the Act.

8. These areas are now being settled by Mr. Wingate, who has demarcated the Reserved and Protected Forests in the Mundgod Sub-division by means of cleared lines and boards, the line dividing the Protected and Reserved Forests being upwards of 72 miles long. Demarcation lines, aggregating 7 miles and a half, were also cut in three adjoining forests of the Sirsi Sub-division settled in 1880-81.

BELGAUM.

9. Mr. Woodward submitted a report on the settlement of 22 villages in the Khánápúr Sub-division, but Government directed that a scheme for the whole forest area of the Sub-division should be submitted; and his proposals were not sanctioned.

10. The addition of 16 acres shown under Protected Forests in the above statement is due to certain corrections made in the original notification of the Parasgad forests. In the Belgaum Sub-division 33 acres and 9 gunthás were also notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act.

KOLÁBA.

11. The work of settlement and demarcation has been vigorously prosecuted during the year. Government orders were passed on the settlement and demarcation of the Mahád and Mángaon sub-divisions, and the lands in Uran were finally notified. The results of these operations are as follows :—

- (1) In the Mahád Sub-division 29,994 $\frac{17}{20}$ acres (*i. e.* 25,330 acres Reserved and 4,664 $\frac{17}{20}$ acres Protected Forest) were taken up.
- (2) In the Mángaon Sub-division 29,580 $\frac{23}{40}$ acres, made up of 18,190 $\frac{31}{40}$ acres of Reserved and 11,389 $\frac{1}{2}$ of Protected Forest, were finally notified.
- (3) In the Urán Mahál, 586 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres were reserved.

12. Mr. Sinclair also completed the settlement-operations in Pen and Nágothna, and got well forward in Roha.

13. The following is the other work done during the year :—

- Allotment of dháli-lands in 22 villages of the Mángaon Sub-division.
- Allotment of dháli-lands in 22 villages of the Pen Sub-division and in one of Mahád.

14. Forest registers of 81 villages of Mahád, 124 of Mángaon, 46 of Pen, 44 of Nágothna, and 118 of Roha were prepared.

15. The following boundary-marks were erected or renewed :—

2,975 new forest cairns.
 915 old forest cairns renewed.
 401 do. do. do. repaired.
 535 dháli-cairns.
 81 ordinary stones.

16. In the Panvel, Mángaon, Mahád, and Pén sub-divisions, 30 gunthás of Reserved, and 4,464 $\frac{21}{40}$ acres of Protected Forests were disforested.

BIJAPUR.

17. The settlement of the forests of Bádámi, Hungund, and Bágalkot sub-divisions was revised by Mr. Tucker, but no Government orders were passed on his reports.

18. In the Bádámi Sub-division, 881 acres and 12 gunthás were notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act.

RATNAGIRI.

19. Mr. Logan undertook the settlement in the sub-divisions of Chiplún, Khed, Sangameshvar, and Rájápur, and submitted reports, which are now pending the decision of Government.

20. During the year, 13,984 acres and 7 gunthás in the Devgad and Sangameshvar sub-divisions were notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act.

21. The expenditure incurred in connection with the demarcation and settlement of forest during the year amounted to Rs. 54,255-10-9, as follows :—

(1) Salaries and allowances of Forest-Settlement-Officers, not charged against the Forest Department ...	Rs. 38,026	7	9
(2) Salaries and allowances of the establishments employed under the Forest-Settlement-Officers and contingent expenditure incurred ...	Rs. 14,872	5	8
(3) Boundary-marks, &c. ...	Rs. 1,326	13	4
<hr/>			
Total Rs.	54,225	10	9

CHAPTER II.

SURVEYS AND ORGANIZATION.

1.—SURVEYS.

22. The survey of the forests of Southern Khánápur was continued, under Messrs. Longe and Pollen, on the 8-inch scale.

23. It was commenced in 1885. During 1885-86 very little progress was made, but during the past year better results were obtained. The accompanying map shows the forest areas surveyed each year. For 1885-86 the area amounts to 11 square miles, and for 1886-87 to 154. The expense for 1886-87 was approximately Rs. 18,528, which amounts to a cost of Rs. 113 per square mile. The frequent changing of officers in charge of the survey may have retarded work (there were six changes during two years); but, considering that scarcely any topographical details are asked for, the result is disappointing, and I think that a departmental survey, or one by the Survey Branch of the Forest Department under the Government of India, would be less expensive and more expeditious. In any case, it appears to me expedient to place the forest survey party under the Conservator of Forests. A good deal of extra forest land has, I believe, been taken up by the forest party, whose expenses are charged to the Department. If that be the case, the above estimate of the cost of the forest survey is of course higher than it should be.